

XVI.—Note on a Central-Asiatic Field-Mouse (*Mus arianus*). By W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S. &c.

I AM indebted to Mr. Oldfield Thomas for calling my attention to the fact that a Japanese species of *Mus* was named *M. erythronotus* by Temminck in 1850.

In the 'Annals' for 1875 I proposed the same name, *M. erythronotus*, for a mouse of which I obtained specimens at Kohrud, between Isfahan and Teheran, in Persia. A species apparently identical with the Persian mouse was collected by the late Dr. Stoliczka in Wakhán, a province on the Upper Oxus belonging to Afghanistan, and at Káshgar, in Eastern Turkestan; and the same form has since been found by Major Biddulph and Dr. Scully at Gilgit in the Upper Indus valley.

It is by no means certain that this form may not pass into the eastern races of *Mus sylvaticus*; and it requires comparison with *Mus sylvaticus*, var. *major*, of Radde; but as it appears to be a well-marked type, with a wide distribution in Central Asia, and as the name *Mus erythronotus* cannot be retained for it, in consequence of the prior use of the same specific denomination by Temminck, I propose to change the name to *Mus arianus*—from Ariana, one of the ancient names for Persia and the neighbouring countries to the eastward.

The following synonymy furnishes, I believe, all the necessary references:—

Mus arianus.

- Mus erythronotus*, W. Blanford, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 4, vol. xvi. p. 311 (1875); Northern Persia, ii. p. 54, pl. v. fig. 3 (1876); Scientific Results Second Yarkand Mission, Mamm. p. 54 (1879); J. A. S. B. 1879, vol. xlvi. pt. 2, p. 97 (nec *Mus erythronotus*, Temm. Fauna Japonica, Mamm. p. 50, 1850).
Mus sylvaticus, var., W. Blanford, J. A. S. B. 1875, xlv. pt. 2, p. 108 (nec Linn.).

XVII.—On the Origin and Formation of the Flints of the Upper or White Chalk; with Observations upon Prof. Sollas's Paper in 'The Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for December 1880. By Surgeon-Major WALLICH, M.D.

[Plate XI.]

As Mr. Sollas has seen fit to make the second part of his memoir "On the Flint Nodules of the Trimmingham Chalk"